GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Neglect of Senior Citizens
Patil Shri Sanjay(Kaka) Ramchandra

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of basic facilities and neglect by other members of family, the life of senior citizens has become miserable ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to enable them to live a life of dignity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)
(a) & (b): The Government is aware of neglect of some Sr. Citizens by their kith and kin. However, no authentic data is available in this regard. The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2017 which, inter-alia, makes maintenance of parents/seniors citizens by their children/ relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of neglect by children/relatives; penal provisions for abandonment of senior citizens, medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizens.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued two detailed advisories dated 27.03.2008 and 30.08.2013 to all State Governments/UTs advising them to take immediate measures to ensure safety and security and for elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against old persons through initiatives such as identification of senior citizens, sensitization of police personnel regarding safety, security of older persons regular visit of beat staff; setting up of toll free senior citizen helpline; setting up of senior citizen security cell; verification of domestic helps, drivers, etc.

(c): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. During the year 2016-17, a total of 761 projects were supported.

Further, this Ministry has launched a Scheme namely, "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" on 1st April 2017 at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Under this Scheme, Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age related disability/ infirmity viz. Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability, are provided with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily function, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested.

As per the information furnished by Ministry of Rural Development, Old age pension is provided, under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), to the persons belonging to below poverty line (BPL) household. Under the scheme Rs. 200/-p.m. is provided to the persons of age 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- p.m. is provided in the age of 80 years or more. The estimated number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS is 221 lakhs.

Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that they have launched the National Programme for
Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) to provide dedicated health care facilities to the elderly population in the country through State health Society (SHS). This is a health care scheme under which provisions have been made to establish health care setup tuned to needs of the elderly people within the existing health care infrastructure in the States/UTs. Following facilities are being provided under the Programme:
â€¢ Geriatric OPD, 30 bedded Geriatric ward for in-patient care, etc at Regional Geriatric Centres.
â€¢ Geriatric OPD and 10 bedded Geriatric Ward at District Hospitals.
â€¢ Bi-weekly Geriatric Clinic at Community health Centres (CHCs).
â€¢ Weekly Geriatric Clinic at Primary Health Centre (PHCs).
â€¢ Provision of Aids and Appliances at Sub-centres.

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